

POLICY UPDATE

January 2023



West & North
Yorkshire Chamber
of Commerce
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POLICY UPDATE : JANUARY 2023

Regional / National

Levelling Up: The Head of Policy & Representation attended one of the North's largest political gatherings, the 'Convention of the North', in Manchester. Mark Casci joined the 1,000-plus business and political delegates who debated the challenges and opportunities facing the North. Key speakers were Michael Gove and Lisa Nandy.

Hospitality: The launch of the Chamber's new Hospitality Forum, instigated by members of York & North Yorkshire Chamber, was announced in the media in mid-January. A small Steering Group, led by Philip Bolson, of Mr B Hospitality, and Sarah Czarnecki, Grays Court Hotel are setting out objectives and outputs.

Transport & Travel: Chambers from across the North of England, including this one, joined a call, led by the incoming Great British Rail Transition Team. The discussion was around potential reforms of ticket pricing to improve transparency, fairness and value. A meeting of the York & North Yorkshire LEP Business Intelligence Group heard that rail issues were generally OK in terms of north south routes around North Yorkshire. Trans Pennine services however remain chaotic, with hundreds of services per day being cancelled.

Skills: Both Local Skills Improvement Plans are now up and running and have held their first board meetings. Successful engagement events were held in both geographies with learning providers, with further such events being planned for the next few weeks.

Economy: Quarterly Economic survey results were published on 5 January (for Q4 '22). Overall, the results were poor but had not, in the main, deteriorated any further since Q3. While still a concern, the results were not surprising. [More info is here.](#)

Bradford

Regeneration: An initial meeting of a Bradford 'Southern Gateway Board' met in January. The Board, to be chaired by former Leeds Chamber President, Nigel Foster, is made up of various private and public sector representatives and specialists, including Network Rail and the Department for Transport. The main aim is to ensure the Southern Gateway regeneration scheme goes ahead, regardless of whether or not Bradford secures a new Northern Powerhouse Rail station.

City of Culture: Bradford Leadership Group received a presentation from the Executive Director of 'Bradford 2025', Dan Bates. No details were yet available on specific projects planned, and this was just the first 'base-touching' exercise with the organisation to ensure the Chamber is fully involved and briefed going forward.

Leeds

City economy: The Leadership Group heard from Leeds BID how trade and footfall had held up in the run-up to Christmas, and plans to enhance Leeds Natural Flood Management.

Property Forum: Six of the eight new Steering Group members attended their first meeting this month, most of them making good contributions.

Waterfront Group: Reconvened after a short break. Multiple plans afoot to improve connectivity and access, as well as user experience. The David Oluwale Bridge has now opened.

York & North Yorkshire

Technology: Talks have re-commenced on the viability of creating a tech-based policy group and/or events focused around this area. Four key themes of Rail Tech, Agri Tech, Smart Software and Digital Media have been identified. Further meetings set for February.

Media

Jan: <https://share.coveragebook.com/b/3997fda01016ede1>

Stakeholder Meetings

03-Jan	Homes England Introduction
05-Jan	WY LSIPs (Local Skills Improvement Plans) Board
06-Jan	Spark Fund Innovation Manager
06-Jan	MYCC QES results update
09-Jan	KPMG meeting
09-Jan	York Business Intelligence
10-Jan	CYC Supporting York Businesses
10-Jan	Dept for Education Skills Meeting
10-Jan	BPF Transport Sub-Group
11-Jan	York Council Economic Growth Update
11-Jan	Bradford Property Forum City Centre Sub-Group
11-Jan	University of York - Entrepreneurship
12-Jan	UK Shared Prosperity Fund Board
12-Jan	York Growth Hub
12-Jan	Leeds Waterfront Group
12-Jan	Bank of England Yorkshire Agent
13-Jan	Leeds Leadership Group
13-Jan	Environment/Sustainability Group Review
13-Jan	LSIPs weekly project group
16-Jan	BAME Group Strategy Session
16-Jan	Bradford Place-Marketing & Investment Partnership
16-Jan	Bradford Council & Social re. upcoming UKREiiF event in May
17-Jan	BPF Steering Group
17-Jan	Trans-Pennine Route Upgrade conference
17-Jan	BCC Employment & Adult Skills Group
17-Jan	Leeds City Region LEP Business Comms Group
17-Jan	BCC LSIPs Impact Group
17-Jan	Scarborough TEC Hospitality
17-Jan	CU Scarborough Hospitality and Tech
18-Jan	Leeds Property Forum Steering Group
18-Jan	Centre for Cities webinar: After the Levelling Up Bill – what next?
19-Jan	Elmet Forum
19-Jan	Leeds Uni Y-Pern
19-Jan	Bradford Southern Gateway Board

19-Jan	NorthStar Ventures – Tech
20-Jan	Tech/LSIPs meeting (York & North Yorkshire)
23-Jan	YPF Steering Group
23-Jan	BCC Policy Steering Group
24-Jan	Richmondshire Council & Growth Hub
24-Jan	LSIPs update for Bradford Employment & Skills Board Chair
24-Jan	Morley Town Deal Board
25-Jan	Convention of the North (Manchester)
25-Jan	Insider Breakfast: Future of the Office Market
26-Jan	LSIPs event hosted at Leeds Business School
27-Jan	North Yorkshire Shared Prosperity Fund Partnership Group
27-Jan	Y&NY Hospitality Steering Group Meeting
27-Jan	LSIPs Update to Bradford College Strategic Planning Day
27-Jan	Meeting with Lloyds
30-Jan	York Community Energy
30-Jan	York Leadership Group Meeting
31-Jan	Bradford Leadership Group
31-Jan	W&NY Planning Group